

Publishing alternatives with Triarchy Press - Theses

If you've recently written, or are still writing your PhD thesis, you may want to get it published. If you've been trying for a while, you've probably discovered how difficult that is.

There are a number of sites that will publish your thesis in its raw (unedited) form for a fee. Other publishers, like us, will also consider publishing your thesis once it has been completely reworked into book format. This may take you up to a year and many theses simply don't lend themselves to this treatment.

Triarchy Press wants to help get more of the wonderful work done by PhD students into the public domain and so we also offer a third way. Here are our ground-rules and guidelines.

We publish in the broad area of organization and organizations. That includes, obviously, how businesses are organized. On a broader level, it includes the way that society and government are organized, or organize themselves. On a narrower level, it includes the way that aspects of business, society and government (for example, international aid, education, health services, prisons, legal services or NGOs) are designed or organized. On a comparative level, it includes different approaches in different countries or different fields. On a technical level, it includes approaches like Design Thinking, Systems Thinking, Complexity Theory, Cultural Theory and Triarchy Theory. Finally, on a practical level, it includes topics like leadership, innovation, empowerment and so on.

The spectrum is broad. It gives international scope. It can include aspects of law and justice. However, it doesn't include quarks, partons or the reproductive cycle of the Giant Madagascar Day Gecko.

We publish books which are rigorously thought-out and which, even if the product of intense academic research, have clear practical applications and implications for non-academics. That already almost certainly requires a significant shift from the initial approach of your thesis.

We prefer to publish books of around 40,000 words (which is, probably, less than half the length of your thesis).

Because books in this field by new authors are notoriously hard to sell, we can seldom recoup our editorial, production, distribution and marketing costs. But we do want to continue to support new authors and high quality writing. To do this, we ask authors of titles that fall into this category to share some of the risk by agreeing to purchase a minimum of 75 copies at the full published price (usually between £20 and £25).

If you agree to publication on this basis, your book will be handled (edited, sub-edited, produced, marketed and distributed) like any other Triarchy title. You will also receive the usual royalty of 12½% on all copies sold (apart from the first 250 copies) – so that you will earn back your initial outlay if the book is successful. Any subsequent copies that you want to buy will be at the usual author's discount of 50%. (I can send you a sample author's agreement, showing all the usual terms and conditions, if you would like to look at it.)

It's important to stress that this is not a vanity publishing arrangement. We will not publish a book that is outside our specialist areas and, even if it meets those criteria, we will not publish a book unless we feel it makes an original and significant contribution to understanding or practice in its field.

As well as publishing your book in both print and e-book formats, we will also (if you wish) put your full, unedited PhD on our website in pdf format, so that all the additional research, bibliographic referencing and academic discourse are accessible (free of charge) to interested book buyers and others who register at our site.

If you think you could meet/accept the above criteria, here's what we ask you to do:

1. Consider whether your PhD could be turned into a document that shows, in a positive way, how practitioners of any description (managers, doctors, policy-makers, etc.) could do their jobs better.
2. Decide whether you can bear to edit it down to about 40,000 words using some of the methods suggested below.
3. Complete our [proposal form](#).

Following are some suggestions for the editing process:

1. Remove all references to your PhD being a PhD
2. Remove any sections that are only there because it's a PhD, including the abstract.
3. Remove most of the signposting and 'architecture', that makes it read like an essay not a book: 'as I have tried to demonstrate...', 'as I will explain in Chapter x...', etc.
4. Remove those aspects of your thesis, which are, or read like, a literature review, a critical survey or an academic debate with a particular author or thinker. [Remember that readers who want this can find it all in the full version of your thesis on our website.]
5. Remove all, or almost all, bibliographic references in the text. [Most can be covered in notes at the end of the book. All of them will be available on the website.]
6. Remove most or all of your sections on your methodology and try not to use the word epistemology at all.
7. Remove most of the 'academically defensive', debating approach and try to make clear proposals and recommendations that practitioners can understand and use.